

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /116 W

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R 211702Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9553

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06436

GENEVA FOR LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, SP, NATO

SUBJECT: LOS - STRAITS

REFS: BONN 6262 AND GENEVA 2572

1. ON APRIL 21 EMBASSY RECEIVED REPORT ON APRIL 17 APPROACH BY FRG AMBASSADOR VON LILIENFELD TO SPANISH FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY ROVIRA IN PRESENCE ALSO OF HEAD OF SPANISH LOS DELEGATION (AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN OFFICE PERSONNEL) ABAROA.
 2. THE SPANISH REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THE CURRENT REGIME, MEANING PRESUMABLY INNOCENT PASSAGE IN STRAITS, APPEARS BEST TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, GOS WOULD NOT OPPOSE EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES. THEY FELT THAT INNOCENT PASSAGE
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IN STRAITS WAS IN INTEREST OF BOTH SPAIN AND WEST

AND PROVIDED GREATER POSSIBILITY OF CONTROL WITH RESPECT TO NAVAL VESSELS INCLUDING SUBMARINES. FREE OR UNIMPEDED PASSAGE WOULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF CONTROL IN THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR, VLADIVOSTOCK AND THE DARDANELLES (SIC).

3. THE SPANISH REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTED TO BE GIVEN AN EXPLANATION OF THE MILITARY AND STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE NATO POSITION BEING VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THE USSR POSITION IN THIS MATTER, INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO SUBMERGED PASSAGE FOR NUCLEAR SUBMARINES. AN APPROXIMATION OF THE SPANISH POSITION TO THAT OF NATO WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE ENTIRE COMPLEX OF THE SPANISH RELATIONSHIP TO NATO SPANISH BASE AGREEMENTS HAD PROVIDED GREATER BENEFITS FOR NATO THAN FOR SPAIN. PASSAGE THROUGH GIBRALTAR WAS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY PROBLEM FOR SPAIN WHICH INVOLVED A NEED FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC THE ADVANTAGES THAT A SETTLEMENT WOULD PROVIDE FOR SPAIN. THE SPANISH REPS STATED THAT OVERFLIGHT OF THE STRAITS COULD NOT BE SETTLED IN THE CONTEXT OF A REGIME FOR THE STRAITS BUT SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE AGREEMENTS.

4. IN THE FRG AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS, HE STATED THAT THE SPANISH POSITION CONCERNING THE STRAITS WAS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT POINT OF LEVERAGE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND FOR SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO NATO. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE OLD IDEA OF THE CONVERSION OF GIBRALTAR TO A NATO BASE COULD ARISE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, INNOCENT PASSAGE, TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT, MEETING REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, STRAITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN06436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750139-0707
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750430/aaaabmw.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BONN 6262, 75 AND GENEVA 2572
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS - STRAITS
TAGS: PLOS, SP, NATO
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006